

CLAIMS

- 1/ A device for applying a substance to the hair, the device comprising an applicator portion and a receptacle on which the applicator portion is fixed, the receptacle being suitable for containing the substance to be applied, the applicator portion having at least one delivery orifice enabling the substance to be delivered, wherein the applicator portion has teeth arranged around a closed curve, the gaps between the teeth being such that they allow hairs to pass between the teeth while enabling the substance to be retained within said curve.
- 2/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows which meet each other around at least one intermediate row situated between said outer rows.
- 3/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has teeth of different heights.
- 4/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is removable, being suitable for fixing on the receptacle in a first position and in a second position different from the first, the receptacle and the applicator portion being arranged in such a manner that in the first position said at least one delivery orifice does not communicate with the substance contained in the receptacle, and in the second position said at least one delivery orifices communicates with the substance contained in the receptacle.
- 5/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion can be fixed on the receptacle in two different positions only, with changeover from one position to the other being performed by removing the applicator portion, turning it through 180° about an axis of the receptacle, and then putting it back into place.

6/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows of teeth and an intermediate row situated between the two outer rows, with all of the teeth in the intermediate row being shorter than those of the outer rows.

7/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has outer and intermediate rows of teeth, said rows superposing one another when the applicator portion is viewed in a direction recommended for moving the applicator portion through the hair.

8/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the teeth are of oblong cross-section.

9/ A device according to claim 1, having two outer rows of teeth and at least one intermediate row of teeth, the intermediate row having teeth whose free ends are set back from the free ends of the teeth in the outer rows by a distance lying in the range 4 mm to 8 mm, when the applicator portion is observed in a direction perpendicular to the axes of the teeth.

10/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has a plurality of substance delivery orifices.

11/ A device according to claim 10, wherein said orifices are of circular section.

12/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the orifices open out between the rows of teeth.

13/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has an internal sealing lip suitable for bearing against a skirt of the receptacle when the applicator portion is in place thereon, said internal lip defining

an inside space that is permanently in communication with the outside via said at least one substance delivery orifice.

5 14/ A device according to claim 13, wherein said internal lip is of oblong cross-section.

15/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle has at least one substance delivery duct in communication
10 with said at least one delivery orifice.

16/ A device according to claim 15, wherein said delivery duct has an axial end which is closed and a side which is open, and wherein the applicator portion includes a
15 shutter suitable for shutting said side opening when the applicator portion is in a predetermined position relative to the receptacle.

17/ A device according to claim 16, wherein said shutter
20 is constituted by a cylindrical wall having a circularly arcuate cross-section.

18/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion is suitable for fixing on the receptacle by snap-
25 fastening.

19/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle comprises a container and an adapter portion to enable the applicator portion to be fixed on the receptacle.
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20/ A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion is constituted by a part made independently of the container and fixed thereon.

35 21/ A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has a sealing skirt defining a housing with at

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least one substance delivery duct opening out into the bottom thereof.

22/ A device according to claim 21, wherein said housing
5 has a central region and side regions, the central region being deeper than the side regions, and wherein the applicator portion has a single duct opening out into the bottom of said central region.

10 23/ A device according to claim 20, wherein the adapter portion has a covering skirt suitable for extending around a neck of the container, and a receiver skirt for receiving the applicator portion.

15 24/ A device according to claim 23, wherein the receiver skirt of the applicator portion has at least one catch in relief for engaging the applicator portion.

20 25/ A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has two main faces and includes a recess formed in each of said faces, and wherein the applicator portion has an index, said index being suitable for engaging in one or other of the said recesses to inform the user about the position of the applicator portion relative to
25 the receptacle.

26/ A device according to claim 19, wherein the adapter portion has at least one indication molded therein for enabling the user to identify the position of the
30 applicator portion relative to the receptacle.

27/ A device according to claim 19, wherein the applicator portion has an assembly skirt and wherein the adapter portion is shaped in such a manner as to enable
35 the user to deform the assembly skirt by pressing in opposite directions on bearing surfaces so as to modify

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the engagement between the receptacle and the applicator portion, for the purpose of removing it.

28/ A device according to claim 27, wherein the assembly skirt has large faces with catches in relief suitable for engaging corresponding catches in relief formed on the adapter piece, and wherein the adapter piece has flats set back from the assembly skirt enabling the user to exert pressure on the bearing surfaces of the assembly skirt so as to enable the user to deform the spacing between the large faces of the assembly skirt to disengage the catches in relief of the assembly skirt from the adapter portion.

29/ A device according to claim 27, wherein the assembly skirt of the applicator portion has ribs on its short sides to constitute the bearing surfaces for the user.

30/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is made integrally with the adapter portion.

31/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle has a plurality of substance delivery ducts and the applicator portion has a plurality of shutters suitable for engaging in said ducts to shut them when the applicator portion is in a first position, and suitable for taking up positions outside said ducts when said applicator portion is in a second position.

32/ A device according to claim 31, wherein said ducts are disposed asymmetrically about a midplane of the receptacle.

33/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle includes a removable cap at an end opposite from the applicator portion.

34/ A device according to claim 33, wherein said cap is shaped so as to allow the receptacle to stand on a plane surface with the applicator portion on top.

5 35/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle
does not have a cap at its end opposite from the
applicator portion.

36/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle
10 includes a compressible wall.

37/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the receptacle is made of polyethylene.

15 38/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator
portion is made of polypropylene.

39/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator
portion has at least one index enabling its position
20 relative to the receptacle to be identified.

40/ A device according to claim 1, wherein the applicator portion has two outer rows of teeth, these rows comprising rectilinear portions which meet each other via series of teeth whose bottom regions extending from their base portions overlap when the applicator portion is observed along a direction parallel to said rectilinear portions.

30 41/ A device according to claim 1, wherein said substance
is a hair dye.

42/ A device according to claim 1, wherein said substance is retained within said curve by capillarity.